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at home for some days in a month. The Member proposed that some laxity in the rules regarding attendance should be made in favour of female students. He then referred to the sentimental objection of parents to sending grown-up daughters to the schools and suggested that, as an incentive to higher education among girls, provision might be made for permitting girls to appear privately for the School Final Examination.

Dewan's reply.—The percentage of attendance fixed for females cannot of course be the same as that for the males. This matter will be attended to. Permission to apply for the School Leaving Certificate Examination, without attendance in a school, cannot however, be given. Without attendance in a school, the certificate can have no value.

Mr. G. Venkitarama Iyer (Member, T. I. C., Vaikom) dwelt on the following points:—

Conditions of the code and
remedies proposed

(1) *Primary Education.*—He said that the greatest boon which the new Education Code had given was free Primary Education, but at the same time it had given a death-blow to many private institutions. Before the advent of the Code, there were 3,500 Primary Schools, of which only 411 were departmental. But now there were only 1,270 Primary Schools, of which 478 were departmental. 5,75,000 children were left without instruction for want of schools. He said that the Aided schools were only a danger and not a help to the State, in that they might break down at any moment. He thought that, at least, 5,000 schools were wanted to make free Primary Education a success and he suggested that annually 500 Primary Schools should be opened and located according to demand.

To staff 5,000 schools, 20,000 teachers at least would be required. The pay of the teachers in the Primary Schools was very low and, as such, no one who had passed the Secondary School Leaving Certificate or any higher examination would be available as teachers for the Primary Schools, because better prospects were open to them in the Secondary Schools. The only persons available would be those who had passed the Elementary School Leaving Certificate Examination. But it was more difficult to get through the Elementary School Leaving Certificate Examination than the Secondary School Leaving Certificate Examination, because the standard of the former with respect to the Malayalam Language was admittedly equal to that for the B. A. students. It was evident from the small percentage of passes in the Elementary School Leaving Certificate Examination that the standard was high. There was thus much difficulty to secure even those who had obtained the Elementary

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School Leaving Certificate as teachers in the Primary Schools. The difficulty could be obviated only by reducing the present standard of the Elementary Examination, in other words, by making the Elementary Certificate really elementary. He pointed out that the change of name from the Higher Vernacular Examination to the Elementary School Leaving Certificate, coupled with the fact that those who secured the latter Certificate could teach only up to Class III in the Vernacular schools and get a small pay, had indirectly lowered the value of Malayalam education. He advocated that a higher examination in the Vernacular should be re-established, with better prospects for those who secure a pass in the same.

(2). *Fees.* The Member referred to the hardships caused by the frequent rise in the scale of fees in the schools. They were increased on three occasions from 1082 to 1087. He proposed that any increase should be made only once in ten years. He also advocated the revival of the old system of scholarships and fee concessions.

(3) *Attendance.* The present system of enforcing 85% of attendance was causing difficulty and he proposed that the percentage required in the Madras Presidency should be adopted here, viz, 70% in ordinary cases and 60% in exceptional cases.

(4) *Industrial Education.* The Member spoke of the need for Industrial Education and for the Government taking the initiative in the matter of small industries, such as the manufacture of pencils, matches, &c. An Industrial Survey of the State, was, in his opinion necessary, and he suggested that students should be sent to other countries to be trained, or experts should be got down for the purpose.

(5) *Educational Boards.* The Member said that these Boards were not working at all for want of active help from the officials. He said that, if each Board were constituted of both official and non-official members and given the assistance of a paid clerk, it would work better.

Dewan's reply.—The Member's speech has been instructive.

The Assembly adjourned at 5 p. m.